

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A self-leveling system that serves to prevent damage to the roadway surrounding a gully-hole and a street sewer, the system comprising:

a frame having an upper portion and a lower portion; and

a tubular section;

wherein the upper portion of the frame has a horizontal wall which serves to transmit to the ground forces directly applied to the frame, such that the frame is supported by the ground,

wherein an upper extremity of the tubular section is ~~freely~~ engaged inside the lower portion of the frame; such that wherein the frame is free to move relative to ~~vertically along an external wall of the tubular section as a result of forces exerted upon the frame as a result of the~~ expansion of the ground occasioned by the frost or as a result of settling of the surrounding ground,

wherein the lower portion of the frame has an inclined wall which allows the frame to move angularly in any direction relative to the axis of the tubular section as a result of differential settling of the surrounding ground or as to follow the slope of the ground, and

wherein the tubular section remains at its same position during vertical or angular movement of the frame.

7. (Previously submitted) The self-leveling system as defined in claim 6, wherein the upper portion of the frame has a downwardly inclined internal wall which serves to direct run-off water toward the tubular section.

8. (Previously submitted) The self-leveling system as defined in claim 6, wherein the upper and lower portions of the frame each has an aperture for receiving run-off water, the aperture of the upper portion being eccentric relative to the aperture of the lower portion.

9. - 12. (Cancelled)